

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ERDA-07 ACDA-10 OMB-01 /084 W

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R 110046Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8727

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5793

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, AS, US

SUBJECT: NPW SNOOK VISIT

1. PERTH DAILY NEWS AUGUST 9 PRINTED FOLLOWING STORY DATE-LINED CANBERRA:

QUOTE THE AUSTRALIAN ANTI-NUCLEAR LOBBY HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR NOT ATTEMPTING TO STOP THE NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINE USS SNOOK ENTERING COCKBURN SOUND. THE CRITICISM HAS COME FROM OUTSPOKEN NEW ZEALAND NUCLEAR CRITIC, MR. OWEN WILKES. MR. WILKES SAID THAT IN NEW ZEALAND IT WAS PLANNED TO USE INNERQUOTE PEACE SQUADRONS END INNERQUOTE OF SMALL BOATS TO ACTIVELY OBSTRUCT THE ENTRY OF A NUCLEAR SHIP TO A NEW ZEALAND PORT SOON. MARITIME UNIONS HAD SAID THEY WOULD REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH THE SHIP. INNERQUOTE IT IS DISAPPOINTING THAT SIMILAR ACTIONS ARE NOT ORGANIZED IN AUSTRALIA, END INNERQUOTE MR. WILKES SAID. INNERQUOTE THE VISIT OF THE USS SNOOK IS ONLY A PRELUDE TO A PERMANENT AMERICAN NUCLEAR PRESENCE THERE IN COCKBURN SOUND. THIS PERMANENT PRESENCE WOULD CONSTITUTE THE MOST SERIOUS ESCALATION OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN

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ADDITION TO THE AMERICAN BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA. END

INNERQUOTE MR. WILKES SAID THE U.S. NAVAL INTENTIONS OF
BASING NUCLEAR SHIPS IN COCKBURN SOUND WERE REVEALED IN
MARCH AT HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL
SUB-COMMITTEE OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS. END QUOTE

2. IS REFERENCE TO MARCH HEARINGS ON CONGRESSIONAL SUB-
COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS MEAN LGFUL TO
DEPARTMENT? WOULD APPRECIATE COPY OF HEARINGS IF
RELEVANT. HARGROVE

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